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ADVISORY SERVICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Role and achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with Commission resolution 2000/79

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CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
Introduction	1 - 3	3
I. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PROCESS TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMES COMMITTED IN CAMBODIA DURING THE PERIOD OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA	4 - 6	4
II. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA	7 - 15	4
III. ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA IN THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS	16 - 62	6
A. Memorandum of understanding	16 - 17	6
B. Implementation of the technical cooperation programme and activities of COHCHR	18 - 55	7
C. Cambodia and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework	56 - 57	14
D. COHCHR staff and the financial situation of the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia	58 - 62	15

Introduction

1. The Cambodia Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (COHCHR) was established pursuant to resolution 1993/6 of the Commission on Human Rights which entrusted the Office:

(a) To manage the implementation of education and technical assistance and advisory services programmes and ensure their continuation;

(b) To assist the Government of Cambodia established after the elections, at its request, in meeting its obligations under the human rights instruments acceded to, including the preparation of reports to the relevant treaty monitoring bodies;

(c) To provide support to bona fide human rights groups in Cambodia;

(d) To contribute to the creation and/or strengthening of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;

(e) To continue to assist with the drafting and implementation of legislation to promote and protect human rights;

(f) To continue to assist with the training of persons responsible for the administration of justice;

(g) To assist the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia in the discharge of his/her functions.

2. In subsequent resolutions, the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia, in collaboration with COHCHR, to assist the Government of Cambodia in ensuring the protection of the human rights of all people in Cambodia.

3. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/79. It contains information on the recommendations of the Special Representative and on the role and achievements of COHCHR from August 2000 to November 2000 in assisting the Government and the people of Cambodia to strengthen democracy and establish the rule of law and respect for human rights. Information on certain coordinated efforts of the United Nations system in Cambodia and on the COHCHR staffing status and the financial situation of the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia is also provided. The Secretary-General's report on the activities of COHCHR from September 1999 to July 2000 was submitted to the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly (A/55/291). Additional information on the recommendations of the previous Special Representatives and the work of COHCHR is available in the annual reports submitted to the General Assembly (A/49/635/Add.1, A/50/681/Add.1 and Corr.1, A/51/552, A/52/489, A/53/400, A/54/353) and to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1994/73, E/CN.4/1995/87, E/CN.4/1996/92, E/CN.4/1997/84, E/CN.4/1998/94, E/CN.4/1999/100, E/CN.4/2000/109).

I. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PROCESS TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMES IN CAMBODIA COMMITTED DURING THE PERIOD OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

4. Developments in and concerns about the process to investigate and prosecute the most serious crimes committed in Combodia during the period of Democratic Kampuchea were discussed during the last session of the Commission on Human Rights.

5. During his two missions to Cambodia (16-22 March 2000 and 4-7 July 2000), the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Hans Corell, finalized the Articles of Cooperation between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia on the Prosecution Under Cambodian Law of Crimes Committed During the period of Democratic Kampuchea. The Articles of Cooperation set out the mutual obligation of the parties with regard to the appointment of the judges, the co-prosecutors and the Director and the Deputy Director of the Administration, the privileges and immunities to which the internationally appointed personnel are entitled, and practical and financial arrangements for the functioning of the Extraordinary Chambers. At the request of the Government, the United Nations suggested amendments to the draft Law on the Establishment of Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for the Prosecution of Crimes Committed During the Period of Democratic Kampuchea, in order to ensure its conformity with the Articles of Cooperation.

6. During the period August to November 2000, some limited progress was made on the draft law. In late September and early October the Legislative Commission of the National Assembly discussed a number of articles of the draft law but the discussion was suspended owing to the flood which overwhelmed Cambodia in October. At the time of writing of the report, the Legislative Commission had resumed and completed its discussion on the draft law. On 29 December 2000, the plenary of the National Asembly commenced its debate on the draft law which was passed unanimously on 2 January 2000. It is expected that it will be discussed at the Senate soon.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA

7. The new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia, Peter Leuprecht, was appointed on 18 August 2000. He succeeds Thomas Hammarberg, who resigned on 31 December 1999 after having served as Special Representative since May 1996, and Michael Kirby who served as Special Representative from 23 November 1993 to April 1996. During their respective terms, Justice Kirby undertook 7 and Mr. Hammarberg 16 official missions to Cambodia. Both reported to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights. Activities carried out by the new Special Representative during the period under review will be reflected in his report to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights. The Special Representative conducted his first official mission to Cambodia from 26 November to 2 December 2000.

8. In resolution 55/95 adopted at its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the newly appointed Special Representative, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations

High Commissioner, to continue the work of his predecessors by evaluating the extent to which the recommendations in his forthcoming reports, and those contained in the reports of his predecessors, are followed up and implemented, and maintaining contact with the Government and the people of Cambodia. COHCHR continues to follow up on the implementation by the authorities of the observations and recommendations, as well as the efforts of the Government of Cambodia to investigate specific cases of serious human rights violations brought to its attention. Developments in this regard will be reported to the Commission on Human Rights for its consideration as part of the report of the Special Representative.

9. Based on General Assembly resolution 54/71 and Commission resolution 2000/79 as well as previous relevant resolutions, COHCHR continued implementing its programme of activities during 2000, including activities for the protection of human rights in Cambodia. During the period 1 January to 31 October 2000, COHCHR received a total of 240 allegations of human rights violations at the Phnom Penh office and the 8 provincial offices located in Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kompong Cham, Kampot, Malai, Pailin, Prey Veng and Siem Reap.

10. The reported allegations included forced evictions, arbitrary confiscation of land and related intimidation, as well as cases of non-compliance with labour rights including several cases of abuse of migrant workers' rights. Allegations of denial of medical assistance to victims in custody, discrimination against ethnic minorities, sexual exploitation of women and children, human trafficking and violence against women have also been reported. COHCHR has also received a significant number of allegations of illegal arrest and detention, and excessive pre-trial detention. COHCHR has also received allegations of police violence and excessive use of force, summary and extrajudicial execution, disappearance, mob killings, torture, political intimidation and violence against members of political parties, in particular the opposition party, including instances of extrajudicial execution, interference of the executive in judicial matters, curtailment of the freedom of association and expression and intimidation of human rights defenders.

11. The Office interviewed victims of human rights violations, families of victims and witnesses to violations. Meetings were held with authorities at the local and national level with the purpose of gathering additional information on allegations, and to assist the authorities in their role of promoting human rights by sharing information on allegations collected by the Office. Cases were also raised with the judiciary and requests were made to initiate legal proceedings against alleged human rights offenders. Visits were made to officials of both the executive and the judiciary to follow up on the progress made in the cases brought to their attention.

12. In general, protection activities of COHCHR prevented illegal arrests as well as excessive detention, and facilitated victims' access to legal assistance, release of victims in illegal detention, release of a significant number of adult women and minor girls from confinement and sexual exploitation, provision of shelter to several foreign victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation and the arrangement of their safe and voluntary return to their home countries. Protection activities also facilitated the provision of medical assistance to persons in custody and modest material assistance to some provincial prisons to improve the prison conditions, and the release of persons from excessive pre-trial detention.

13. As mentioned in the previous report (E/CN.4/2000/108), COHCHR continued documenting and analysing cases of human rights violations, in particular with regard to allegations of mob killings, torture, the use of excessive violence by police and abuses committed by military personnel. Information with regard to new cases of torture and cases previously brought to the attention of the Government of Cambodia in a memorandum presented by the Special Representative in 1997 was also updated. Twenty new cases of allegations of torture by officers of the National Police in Battambang Province in 1998 and 1999 were submitted to the Government, urging the authorities to investigate and initiate legal proceedings against perpetrators and to take the necessary measures to prevent this practice from recurring.

14. COHCHR continued its activities relating to prison conditions, including with respect to the legal situation of persons in custody. During the reporting period, at least 16 to 18 monthly visits were conducted to various national and provincial prisons. Quarterly meetings were held with the prison and judicial authorities to address legal and other major concerns regarding prison conditions. Throughout the country, detainees' access to legal assistance, adequate food, clean and safe water and medical assistance are still below international minimum standards. Many of the concerns may be directly related to the limited budget allocated to prisons. However, concerns such as disciplinary measures taken by prison officials which are not in accordance with prison procedures, or irregular practices used in authorizing visits to persons in custody and upon release are not related to financial constraints and could be stopped relatively quickly upon the authorities taking appropriate measures. Staff members of COHCHR encountered some obstacles in the performance of their monitoring functions. In particular, prison directors and prison staff have on several occasions denied access to prisoners and pre-trial detainees for private interviews, for which they require a written authorization from the courts, in accordance with instructions in this regard from the Ministry of Justice. The situation of children in custody also remains a matter of serious concern.

15. Cases of allegations of human rights violations were referred to various thematic mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on toxic waste, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression and the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders. A compilation of the 240 complaints of human rights violations received by COHCHR was also brought to the attention of the thematic mechanisms for their information and action as appropriate. As part of the programme of assistance to local non-governmental organizations, COHCHR plans to provide them with training on the mandate and working methods of these special procedure mechanisms.

III. ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA IN THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Memorandum of understanding

16. The previous memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Government of Cambodia and OHCHR expired on 28 February 2000. As the General Assembly and the

Commission on Human Rights were previously informed, the Government had verbally agreed to the extension of the MoU until March 2002 in order to enable the Office to continue functioning and to maintain its technical cooperation programmes.

17. During the period under review, several meetings were held between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and COHCHR to discuss the MoU with a view to finalizing the document. At the time of writing of this report, negotiations between the two parties to the MoU are still continuing on one outstanding issue.

B. Implementation of the technical cooperation programme and activities of COHCHR

1. Assistance for the drafting and implementation of legislation to promote and protect human rights

18. COHCHR provides:

(a) Assistance to bodies and actors concerned in the law-making process by ensuring the compatibility of laws with international human rights standards;

(b) Training to those engaged in drafting laws, facilitating the involvement of civil society in the process;

(c) Advice and information on legal matters to members of the Senate and National Assembly.

19. In order to make the relevant legal materials available to the concerned sectors and institutions, COHCHR has completed the compilation of laws and made arrangements for its publication.

20. COHCHR is currently providing technical assistance for the development of the legal system. This consists of activities facilitating the participation of civil society in the law-making process, specifically by coordinating several working groups through which NGOs and civil society groups can provide input on specific draft laws. During the reporting period, COHCHR worked on drafts of criminal law, criminal procedure law, commune administrative management law, commune election law, law on control of small weapons, land law, anti-corruption law, HIV/AIDS prevention and care law, quality control of goods and services law, etc.

21. In August 2000, a 15-week law drafting seminar, consisting of a series of half-day sessions each month, started. Participants include senators, National Assembly members, senior government officials, NGO representatives and staff from the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Council of the Magistracy and the Constitutional Council. Two specific seminars were held in August and October 2000 for policy makers on their role in the law-making process. International experts were invited as resource persons to these two seminars.

22. As part of the programme of assistance to the Ministry of Justice, the Constitutional Council, the Supreme Council of the Magistracy and courts at all levels, COHCHR provides assistance to strengthen the judicial system for the adequate administration of justice. Capacity-building programmes for judges, prosecutors, other court officials and lawyers on the understanding and application of human rights standards in the delivery of justice, including strengthening of legal education, were also facilitated by judicial mentors during the period August to November 2000.

23. COHCHR, together with the Ministry of Justice and the co-sponsorship of the Embassy of the United Kingdom, organized a workshop for judges, prosecutors and court clerks of four provincial courts. The workshop was attended by the Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of Justice and a number of other officials and resource persons from various NGOs dealing with legal and court matters. COHCHR has produced compilations of Cambodian law in Khmer for distribution to judges and prosecutors, Senate and National Assembly commissions, the Council of Ministers, the police, various ministries and NGOs. COHCHR provides support to the new initiative of the Cambodian Bar Association to generate public discussion of leading court cases. In August 2000, a seminar was organized for lawyers, judges, prosecutors and civil society groups on a recent high profile court case concerning a former Khmer Rouge military commander. Another such seminar is planned for December 2000.

24. COHCHR continued to implement the Judicial Mentor Programme with a view to providing technical support to members of the judiciary in the following six courts: Phnom Penh Municipal Court, Takeo Provincial Court, Kompong Cham Provincial Court, Kompong Chhnang Provincial Court, Svay Rieng Provincial Court and Battambang Provincial Court.

25. During the period under review, the activities of the Judicial Mentor Programme focused on the improvement of the administration of justice through institution-building activities such as:

On-the-job training;

Providing advice on law, procedure and court management;

Monitoring court trials;

Conducting regular visits to prisons.

26. To ensure coordination between the courts, the judicial police and provincial officials, the Judicial Mentor Programme holds monthly coordination meetings in each province where a judicial mentor is working. Discussions mainly focus on the rule of law, implementation of court decisions by law enforcement bodies and the independence of the judiciary. In addition to the provision of support to civil society through capacity-building at the provincial level, judicial mentors also provide material support to the courts and prisons and report weaknesses in the functioning of court to the main office in Phnom Penh. The programme will be expanded in the near future to cover the Appeal Court and the Supreme Court.

2. Creation of national institutions and strengthening other government bodies for the promotion and protection of human rights

27. The establishment and strengthening of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights has been a priority of the Office since 1993. COHCHR provides advice and assistance and maintains a close dialogue with governmental bodies and agencies with mandates relevant to human rights. Cooperation and dialogue extend to the monitoring and investigation of alleged violations, preparation of governmental reports on the implementation of human rights norms, formulation of laws and policies affecting human rights, and the implementation of educational activities.

28. COHCHR cooperates mainly with the following institutions: Human Rights and the Reception of Complaints Commission; Legislative Commissions of both the Senate and the National Assembly; Supreme Council of the Magistracy; Office of the Prosecutor General; the courts; Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Preparation of Human Rights Reports to the United Nations; Governmental Cambodian Human Rights Committee; Land Disputes Settlement Commission; Cambodian National Police; Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Royal Gendarmerie; Prison Department; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Women and Veteran's Affairs; Non-governmental human rights organizations. Activities carried out in cooperation with all these institutions are outlined in the various sections of this report.

3. Capacity-building and training for government officials in the administration of justice and other human rights issues

(a) Approach

29. Enhancing the capacity of governmental institutions to promote and protect human rights through increased understanding and application of human rights standards continues to be a priority for COHCHR. This objective is pursued through the implementation of broad education and training programmes, in particular on issues related to the administration of justice, and the development of operational guidelines for the conduct of professional duties by government officials, especially law enforcement officials.

30. COHCHR has been carrying out education and training programmes for several years. The COHCHR approach is multi-phased, and involves:

(a) Development of curricula for various professional audiences;

(b) Training of trainers within key government institutions;

(c) Continued mentoring and provision of advice to the Cambodian trainers;

(d) Monitoring and provision of support to training programmes conducted by the Cambodian trainers themselves.

31. Through this approach, during the past several years a core group of some 40 human rights instructors has been established within each of the following institutions: the Royal

Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF), the Royal Gendarmerie and the Cambodian National Police. Instructors have also been trained within the Inspection Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation. Currently, rather than directly delivering training, COHCHR is mainly supporting and observing the courses conducted by the COHCHR-trained instructors throughout Cambodian provinces and municipalities, as well as providing advice on the course content and methodology. Thus, a process of shifting responsibility for the training from COHCHR to the respective ministries and institutions is well under way.

32. COHCHR has started discussing with the RCAF, Royal Gendarmerie and National Police training departments the integration of human rights training into the professional training programmes of these security forces with a view to increasing the sustainability of human rights education for law enforcement agencies and military forces. Integration of human rights training into professional schools' programmes should, in the long run, replace the special courses on human rights currently being conducted with COHCHR support. Anticipated difficulties for this approach include the minimal budget from public resources which is allocated to the respective departments for training, as well as the limited structured and systematic training programmes which are offered to members of the military and security forces.

33. COHCHR has started a process of assessment of the methodological and substantive capacity of the core RCAF, Royal Gendarmerie and National Police human rights instructors based on feedback from COHCHR staff, especially those in the provincial offices, who monitor and assist in the implementation of the training programmes. Activities to strengthen the instructors' capacity to deliver effective human rights training are being planned for next year.

(b) Cambodian National Police

34. During the period under review, extensive training was conducted throughout Cambodia based on the annual schedule issued by the Ministry of the Interior for the Police Human Rights and Law Training Programme. During the period August to November 2000, COHCHR-trained police instructors trained approximately 1,450 police officials, using the curriculum developed by COHCHR.

35. In October 2000, COHCHR conducted one training-of-trainers course on human rights, law enforcement and training methodology in Kompong Cham province for 23 officers of the Cambodian National Police. The aim of the course was to train additional police trainers, who would be assigned to each of the 10 provinces where there was only one active human rights trainer. At the end of the course, the selected trainers joined the core group of police instructors who are conducting the nationwide training programme.

36. Implementation of the inter-agency project "Law enforcement against sexual exploitation of children", of which COHCHR is a member together with UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Redd Barna, World Vision and the Ministry of the Interior, continued. The overall goal of the project is to improve the capacity of the police, investigating judges and prosecutors to investigate cases of sexual exploitation and trafficking of children,

including rescue of victims, development of referral systems, arrest of offenders and initiation of court proceedings. The main components of the project are the development of police operating procedures on the investigation of cases of sexual exploitation against children, the development of training materials and the basic training of senior police officers, and the establishment and in-depth training of a specialized investigation team.

37. During the reporting period, the manual "Understanding and Investigating Child Sexual Exploitation" and the Trainer's Guide on the same topic, drafted earlier in 2000, were reviewed by working groups established within the Ministry of the Interior. They will be finalized soon taking into account the working groups' comments. These materials were used in October 2000 for the training of an Investigative Coordination Team including members of various police departments, established at the Ministry of the Interior. A 10 day training course for police officials, court officials and representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation involved in the prevention or investigation of cases of child sexual exploitation was held in October 2000. A hotline established at the Ministry of the Interior to report cases of sexual exploitation against children was advertised on Cambodian television and started being used by the public, leading to the rescue of several victims. On-the-job training through investigation and follow-up of cases is provided to police officials by an international expert. Two training videos are being produced.

(c) Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Royal Gendarmerie

38. Based on the annual schedule for RCAF human rights and law training issued by the Ministry of Defence, COHCHR-trained military and gendarmerie trainers continued to conduct training courses throughout Cambodia. With the support and assistance of COHCHR staff, during the period August to October 2000, approximately 1,580 members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and 110 gendarmes were trained. COHCHR started reviewing the training materials used in the various military schools and academies in Cambodia, with a view to devising ways to integrate human rights aspects. A training course in Phnom Penh for high-ranking gendarmerie officers is planned for December 2000.

(d) Development of codes of conduct

39. A working group comprised of members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, the Royal Gendarmerie, the Cambodian National Police, the Senate Human Rights Commission, the local NGO Cambodian Institute of Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, COHCHR and the European Union was established to draft codes of conduct for personnel of RCAF, the Royal Gendarmerie and the National Police. Between August and October 2000, the working group, co-chaired by the Cambodian Institute of Human Rights and COHCHR, prepared the three drafts. In November 2000, a national forum involving broad participation of the institutions concerned, ministries and civil society was convened to review the drafts and provide comments prior to their finalization. COHCHR participated as a panellist to discuss the incorporation of relevant international human rights standards. It is expected that the codes will be finalized shortly and produced in pocket format for distribution to all military, gendarme and police personnel in Cambodia.

(e) Labour rights

40. COHCHR continued to provide assistance in training programmes on labour rights conducted by labour inspectors of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation who were previously trained by COHCHR. In September and October 2000, eight training sessions were conducted in garment factories in Phnom Penh for 205 management personnel, union representatives, workers' delegates and workers.

41. In November 2000, COHCHR participated in a regional workshop on labour rights held in Phnom Penh. The workshop was organized by the Asia Monitor Resource Centre and the Cambodian Labour Organization, and involved representatives of labour organizations from the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand, Viet Nam, China and Cambodia. At this workshop, COHCHR presented the international standards on labour rights and the Global Compact initiative. COHCHR also continues to monitor the work of the tripartite Labour Advisory Committee.

(f) Environment

42. In cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and the NGO Forum's Working Group on Environment, COHCHR started developing training materials to be used for an "environmental rights advocacy training programme". A training-of-trainers course for staff of the Ministry of Environment and representatives of NGOs concerned is scheduled to take place in December 2000.

43. A workshop on the elimination of illegal logging for national park rangers and military, gendarmerie and police officials was held in the province of Battambang in November 2000. It was conducted by Ministry of Environment officials with the support of COHCHR, and based on the curriculum developed by COHCHR.

(g) Trafficking

44. Several COHCHR provincial offices conducted workshops for various target groups on the issue of trafficking of human beings, based on the curriculum developed by COHCHR. Target groups mainly included primary and secondary school students and teachers, and commune and village leaders. Workshops were also conducted for provincial-level officials on human rights and democracy issues.

4. Human rights reporting obligations and implementation of recommendations made by treaty monitoring bodies

45. Cambodia is party to the six main international human rights instruments and has submitted initial reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

46. COHCHR continues to provide assistance to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Preparation of Human Rights Reports to the United Nations (IMC) in the preparation of reports to be submitted in accordance with the Government's obligations under the various international human rights instruments. In the period under review, COHCHR continued to provide assistance to IMC to prepare the Government's report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. COHCHR also provided a technical drafter to assist the Ministry of Women and Veteran's Affairs and IMC in carrying out this task. As a follow-up to the recommendations of the Workshop on Human Rights Treaty Reporting organized by COHCHR and the Centre for Democratic Institutions of the Australian National University in June 2000, a representative of the NGO Committee on CEDAW (the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) is now regularly present at the weekly meetings of IMC.

47. The draft report of the Royal Government of Cambodia on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was finalized by IMC in early 2000. In August 2000, it was submitted by IMC for final review to the Cambodian Human Rights Committee of the Royal Government of Cambodia and, at the time of writing, was awaiting release.

5. Support to non-governmental human rights groups in Cambodia

48. The enhancement of the capacity of Cambodian non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations to carry out activities in promoting and protecting human rights is a priority for COHCHR and essential for the long-term development of rule of law and respect for human rights in Cambodia. In this respect, COHCHR provides training, legal advice and other forms of technical and financial assistance. Non-governmental organizations are key partners in the implementation of the COHCHR programme, including in the areas of monitoring, investigation and protection, law reform, education, training, information and advocacy.

49. Between August and November 2000, COHCHR facilitated the work of the Human Rights Video Production Committee of Cambodia, consisting of 12 non-governmental organizations, for the editing and production of videos on various human rights issues. Twelve videos were finalized, on issues such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, torture, implementation of human rights and law, right to legal representation, trafficking, domestic violence, rights of women, elections and environment. The videos are currently being broadcast on Cambodian cable television.

50. COHCHR is monitoring implementation of 14 human rights projects by Cambodian non-governmental organizations, which are being funded under the Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia. The projects include:

(a) Production of theatre plays on human rights in Khmer;

(b) A prisoners' literacy programme;

(c) Human rights education for police and prison officials on the rights of women;

(d) Assistance to victims of violations of human rights;

(e) Training on HIV/AIDS and human rights for medical workers;

(f) Strengthening of the human rights information management capacity of local non-governmental organizations;

(g) Protection of and education for ethnic minorities;

(h) Provision of legal aid to juvenile offenders and victims of crime.

51. In addition to ongoing monitoring, including field visits, in September and October 2000 COHCHR conducted a mid-term review of the projects in cooperation with the NGOs concerned. The training materials used by these NGOs are being reviewed.

52. COHCHR continued to participate in the regular meetings of the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee, a coalition of 17 non-governmental organizations aimed at taking coordinated action on human rights issues. COHCHR also provides assistance to provincial branches of the Human Rights Action Committee to strengthen its monitoring and protection work.

53. COHCHR provided briefings and short training sessions to a variety of groups including vulnerable women, university students and various organizations with an interest in human rights.

54. In cooperation with UNAIDS, COHCHR organized a two-day workshop on human rights and HIV/AIDS for staff of COHCHR and concerned NGOs. Participants identified critical human rights issues and concerns within the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemics in Cambodia and developed recommendations for action by both COHCHR and key NGOs.

55. Posters on minority rights, HIV/AIDS and human rights, trafficking and mob killings were designed and are being produced both for general dissemination and use in training activities. Human rights publications, instruments and training materials are regularly distributed to NGOs and governmental departments.

C. Cambodia and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework

56. OHCHR is responsible for the systemwide coordination of all matters relating to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. As part of the United Nations team in the country, in April 2000 COHCHR participated in the elaboration of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2001-2005, which identified human rights as one of four cross-cutting issues in all areas of concentration. UNDAF was prepared based on the

findings of the common country assessment for Cambodia and on the mandates, experience and comparative advantages of the various United Nations bodies and agencies working in the country.

57. In April 2000, the United Nations Country Team conducted a workshop on the mainstreaming of human rights into the UNDAF process and United Nation country programmes in Cambodia. A follow-up meeting to the workshop was held in October 2000. COHCHR continues to work towards incorporating human rights norms into the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Second Socio-Economic Development Plan (2001-2005) which is currently being drafted.

D. COHCHR staff and the financial situation of the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia

58. COHCHR consists of one main office located in Phnom Penh, eight provincial offices and six judicial mentor's offices. The Office includes the Director's Office, the Legal Assistance Unit, the Education, Training and Information Unit, the Monitoring and Protection Unit, the Administration Unit, the Provincial Office Network and the Judicial Mentors Programme.

59. COHCHR has been involved in a wide range of activities to address the issue of trafficking at the regional and national levels. In March 2000 the Cambodian National Working Group on Trafficking was established, comprising representatives of relevant government ministries, non-governmental organizations and concerned United Nation agencies. COHCHR is involved in both facilitating preventive action by Government and non-governmental organizations, and in actual investigation and assistance to victims in individual trafficking cases. COHCHR has worked with other agencies to produce a television programme on trafficking and forced prostitution which was shown on national television. Regional initiatives to combat trafficking include nine regional projects, including:

(a) A subregional project on cross-border trafficking of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour of the International Labour Organization (ILO/IPEC);

(b) An IOM project for the return and reintegration of vulnerable women and children;

(c) The Mekong Law Centre on Illegal Migration;

(d) A project of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on the elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of women and children in the Asian-Pacific region;

(e) An inter-agency project on trafficking in women and children in the Mekong subregion;

(f) A UNAIDS project on trafficked women and children.

60. The Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking is encouraging all Governments in the region to draw up national plans of action against trafficking.

61. The chief of the Monitoring and Protection Unit also serves as the assistant to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia.

62. The provincial office network currently comprises three international advisers (United Nations Volunteers), six national human rights officers and seven national assistants. The judicial mentors, include six international legal professionals, recruited as consultants, and six national assistants.